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280 N. OLD WOODWARD AVENUE, STE. 400, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48009-5394 (24¢) 647-6000

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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

- 1. (Currently Amended) A modular office cubicle system, comprising:
- a plurality of vertical members each having lower ends configured to rest on a floor;
- a plurality of horizontal members extending between the vertical members such that the vertical and horizontal members cooperate to form a skeletal work cubicle <u>adapted to</u> at least partially surrounding a work area;

structural connection fittings removably interconnecting the horizontal members with the vertical members; and

removable and replaceable polymerized sheathing surrounding at least some of the plurality of vertical members and some of the plurality of horizontal members;

- a generally planar work top supported by some of the <u>horizontal and vertical</u> members in a generally horizontal position.
- 2. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 1, wherein the horizontal and vertical members define a plurality of generally vertical framed areas, the system further comprising a plurality of infill panels, each infill panel being supported in one of the framed areas and having an area which substantially consumes the framed area in which it is supported.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 1, further comprising a cabinet suspended from some of the <u>horizontal and vertical</u> members.
- 4. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 1, wherein the lower ends of each of the vertical members has a caster.
- 5. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 1, wherein each of the horizontal and vertical members are hollow metal tubes.

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6. (Currently Amended) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 1, wherein each of the polymerized sheathings sheathing has an interior diameter equal to or greater than the outer diameter of the metal tube it covers and extends the length of the tube it covers.

- 7. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the structural fittings comprises a slip-in fitting having a base with a radiused end surface matching the outer diameter of the polymerized sheathing covering one of the tubes, the fitting further having an engagement member extending from the base, the engagement member configured to engage the inner diameter of one of the tubes.
- 8. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 7, wherein the slip-in structural fitting further comprises a connector operable to connect the fitting to one of the tubes such that the end surface mates with the outer diameter of the sheathing covering the tube.
- 9. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 7, wherein the base of the slip-in structural fitting has an outer diameter substantially the same as the outer diameter of the polymerized sheathing covering the tube engaged by the engagement member.
- 10. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 7, wherein the engagement member comprises a pair of engagement fingers shaped to fit into the inner diameter of the tube engaged by the engagement member.
- 11. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the structural fittings comprises a slip-on fitting having an inner diameter greater than or equal to the outer diameter of the polymerized sheathing covering one of the tubes.
- 12. (Currently Amended) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 11, wherein the slip-on structural fitting further comprises a set screw operable to press against the plastic polymerized sheathing or the tube such that the fitting grips the sheathing and the tube.

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13. (Original) A modular office cubicle system, comprising:

a plurality of vertical members each having lower ends configured to rest on a floor;

a plurality of horizontal members extending between the vertical members such that the vertical and horizontal members cooperate to form a skeletal work cubicle at least partially surrounding a work area;

structural connection fittings removably interconnecting the horizontal members with the vertical members; and

removable and replaceable polymerized sheathing surrounding at least some of the plurality of vertical members and some of the plurality of horizontal members; and

the horizontal and vertical members defining a plurality of generally vertical framed areas, the system further comprising a plurality of infill panels, each infill panel being supported in one of the framed areas and having an area which substantially consumes the framed area in which it is supported.

- 14. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 13, wherein one or more of the infill panels comprise fabric covered panels.
- 15. (Currently Amended) <u>The modular Modular</u> office cubicle system according to claim 13, wherein one or more of the infill panels comprise mesh panels.
- 16. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 13, wherein one or more of the infill panels comprise sound absorption panels.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 13, further comprising a generally planar worktop supported by some of the <u>horizontal and vertical</u> members in a generally horizontal position.
- 18. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 13, wherein each of the horizontal and vertical members are hollow metal tubes.



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19. (Currently Amended) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 18, wherein each of the polymerized sheathings sheathing has an interior diameter equal to or greater than the outer diameter of the metal tube it covers and extends the length of the tube it covers.

- 20. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the structural fittings comprises a slip-in fitting having a base with a radiused end surface matching the outer diameter of the polymerized sheathing covering one of the tubes, the fitting further having an engagement member extending from the base, the engagement member configured to engage the inner diameter of one of the tubes.
- 21. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 20, wherein the slip-in structural fitting further comprises a connector operable to connect the fitting to one of the tubes such that the end surface mates with the outer diameter of the sheathing covering the tube.
- 22. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 20, wherein the base of the slip-in structural fitting has an outer diameter substantially the same as the outer diameter of the polymerized sheathing covering the tube engaged by the engagement member.
- 23. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 20, wherein the engagement member comprises a pair of engagement fingers shaped to fit into the inner diameter of the tube engaged by the engagement member.
- 24. (Original) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the structural fittings comprises a slip-on fitting having an inner diameter greater than or equal to the outer diameter of the polymerized sheathing covering one of the tubes.
- 25. (Currently Amended) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 24, wherein the slip-on structural fitting further comprises a set screw operable to press against the plastic polymerized sheathing or the tube such that the fitting grips the sheathing and the tube.



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26. (Currently Amended) Modular office furniture, comprising:

a plurality of horizontal and vertical members having ends which are coupled with fittings to create a skeletal work area; and

wherein some or all of the <u>horizontal and vertical</u> members are covered with polymeric sheathing.

- 27. (Currently Amended) The modular office furniture of claim 26, further including a work surface horizontally supported by the <u>horizontal and vertical</u> members.
- 28. (Currently Amended) The modular office furniture of claim 26, further including a cabinet suspended from the <u>horizontal and vertical members</u>.
 - 29. (Original) The modular office furniture of claim 26, wherein:

 the sheathing is co-extensive with the member being covered; and the fitting covers a portion of the sheathing.
 - 30. (Original) The modular office furniture of claim 26, wherein:

 the sheathing is somewhat shorter than the member being covered; and
 the fitting is relieved so that the sheathing is flush with an outer surface of the fitting.
- 31. (Original) The modular office furniture of claim 26, wherein the members are hollow metal tubes.
 - 32. (Currently Amended) A modular office cubicle system, comprising:
- a plurality of vertical members each having lower ends configured to rest on a floor, said vertical members including a first, a second, and a third corner member;
- a plurality of horizontal members extending between the corner members such that the vertical and horizontal members cooperate to form a back wall and a side wall that meet at an angle;

structural connection fittings removably interconnecting the horizontal members with the corner

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members; and remova

removable and replaceable polymerized sheathing surrounding at least some of the corner members and some of the plurality of horizontal members.

- 33. (Original) A modular office cubicle system, comprising:
- a first side partition comprising;
- a first pair of vertical members positioned generally parallel to each other and spaced apart by a first distance:
- a first plurality of spaced apart generally parallel horizontal members extending between the first pair of vertical members;

structural connection fittings removably interconnecting the horizontal members in the first plurality with the first pair of vertical members;

a second side partition comprising;

a second pair of vertical members positioned generally parallel to each other and spaced apart by a second distance;

a second plurality of spaced apart generally parallel horizontal members extending between the second pair of vertical members;

structural connection fittings removably interconnecting the horizontal members in the second plurality with the second pair of vertical members;

a back wall comprising a pair of spaced apart generally horizontal members extending between one of the vertical members in the first pair and one of the vertical members in the second pair; and

removable and replaceable polymerized sheathing surrounding at least some of the vertical members and some of the horizontal members.

- 34. (Currently Amended) The modular office cubicle system according to claim 33, further comprising:
 - a side wall extending from and aligned with the first side partition, the side wall comprising;:
 - . a vertical corner member spaced from the first side partition; and
 - a pair of horizontal members extending between the first side partition and the vertical corner

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a front wall extending from the corner member at an angle to the side wall, the front wall being generally parallel to the back wall, the front wall comprising;

a vertical end member spaced from the corner member; and

a pair of horizontal members extending between the end member and the corner member.